

IN THE CLAIMS:

No amendments are being made to the claims; however, the claims as pending are provided below for the Examiner's convenience.

1-43. (Canceled)

44. (Previously Presented) An optical material which is formed by mixing materials comprising a first material having a refractive index of not more than 1.45 for the d-line and a second material having an Abbe number, indicating wavelength dispersion in the visible region, of not more than 25, wherein with a predetermined ratio of mixture of said first material and second material, a relation between a refractive index for the d-line (n_d) and an Abbe number (v_d) is defined as follows:

$$n_d \leq -6.667 \times 10^{-3} v_d + 1.70.$$

45. (Previously Presented) The optical material according to Claim 44, wherein the Abbe number (v_d), indicating wavelength dispersion in the visible region, is less than 40.

46. (Previously Presented) An optical material which is formed by mixing materials comprising a first material having a refractive index of not more than 1.40 for the d-line and a second material having an Abbe number, indicating wavelength dispersion in the visible region, of not more than 15, wherein with a predetermined ratio of mixture of said first material and second material, a relation between a refractive index for the d-line (n_d) and an Abbe number (v_d) is defined as follows:

$$n_d \leq -6.667 \times 10^{-3} v_d + 1.70.$$

47. (Previously Presented) The optical material according to Claim 46, wherein the Abbe number (v_d), indicating wavelength dispersion in the visible region, is less than 40.

48. (Previously Presented) An optical material which is formed by mixing materials comprising a first material having a refractive index of not more than 1.45, and not more than 1.55 for the d-line, and a second material having an Abbe number, indicating wavelength dispersion in the visible region, of not more than 10, wherein with a predetermined ratio of mixture of said first material and second material, a relation between a refractive index for the d-line (n_d) and an Abbe number (v_d) is defined as follows:

$$n_d \leq -6.667 \times 10^{-3} v_d + 1.70.$$

49. (Previously Presented) The optical material according to Claim 48, wherein the Abbe number (v_d), indicating wavelength dispersion in the visible region, is less than 40.

50. (Previously Presented) An optical member formed by an optical material which is formed by mixing materials comprising a first material having a refractive index of not more than 1.45 for the d-line and a second material having an Abbe number, indicating wavelength dispersion in the visible region, of not more than 25, wherein with a predetermined ratio of mixture of said first material and second material, a relation between a refractive index for the d-line (n_d) and an Abbe number (v_d) is defined as follows:

$$n_d \leq -6.667 \times 10^{-3} v_d + 1.70.$$

51. (Previously Presented) The optical material according to Claim 50, wherein the Abbe number (v_d), indicating wavelength dispersion in the visible region, is less than 40.

52. (Previously Presented) The optical member according to Claim 50, wherein said second material comprises particles having a grain size in the range of 2 to 100 nm.

53. (Previously Presented) The optical member according to Claim 50, wherein said first material is an amorphous fluoro-resin.

54. (Previously Presented) The optical member according to Claim 50, wherein said second material is particles of a composite metal oxide of titanium and silicon ($\text{Si}_x\text{-Ti}_{(1-x)}\text{O}_2$) having the Abbe number (v_d) of 24.4.

55. (Previously Presented) The optical member according to Claim 50, wherein said first material is an amorphous fluoro-resin, said second material is particles of a composite metal oxide of titanium and silicon ($\text{Si}_x\text{-Ti}_{(1-x)}\text{O}_2$) having the Abbe number (v_d) of 24.4, and a weight ratio of the particles and said amorphous fluoro-resin is in the range of 45:100 to 75:100.

56. (Previously Presented) The optical member according to Claim 50, wherein said first material is a dimethylsilicone resin.

57. (Previously Presented) The optical member according to Claim 50, wherein said first material comprises particles of titanium oxide (TiO_2).

58. (Previously Presented) The optical member according to Claim 50, wherein said first material is a dimethylsilicone resin, said second material is particles of titanium oxide (TiO₂), and a weight ratio of the titanium oxide and said dimethylsilicone resin is in the range of 18:100 to 70:100.

59. (Previously Presented) An optical system comprising the optical member according to Claim 50.

60. (Previously Presented) An optical device comprising the optical system according to Claim 59.

61. (Previously Presented) A diffracting optical element formed by an optical material which is formed by mixing materials comprising a first material having a refractive index of not more than 1.45 for the d-line and a second material having an Abbe number, indicating wavelength dispersion in the visible region, of not more than 25, wherein with a predetermined ratio of mixture of said first material and second material, a relation between a refractive index for the d-line (n_d) and an Abbe number (v_d) is defined as follows:

$$n_d \leq -6.667 \times 10^{-3} v_d + 1.70.$$

62. (Previously Presented) An optical system comprising the diffracting optical element according to Claim 61.

63. (Previously Presented) An optical device comprising the optical system according to Claim 62.